CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM EXCISE

PAGE 01 KABUL 01211 191811Z 3729 KABUL 01211 191811Z

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 EB-14 ISO-00 SY-05 SP-02 NCT-01 SY-02 SYE-00 H-01 INR-05 IRE-00 L-01 PM-03 PA-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 EUR-00 SSO-00 EA-00 /052 W

---------- 096758 191811Z /16 S

O R 191811Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2276
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 1211

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 2-19-79 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF

SUBJECT: THE [redacted] ACCOUNT OF AMBASSADOR DUBS' DEATH

REF: HONG KONG 2481 (NOTAL)

1. (U - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO WERE AT THE KABUL HOTEL THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT OF FEBRUARY 14 HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE ABOUT VARIOUS SIGNIFICANT POINTS MADE BY [redacted]

(A) THE LOCATION OF THE [redacted] WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A DINING ROOM ON THE MAIN FLOOR) PRESENTED LIMITATIONS AS AN OBSERVATION POST. AMERICAN OFFICERS AT THE HOTEL CIRCULATED RATHER FREELY.

(B) WE ALSO NOTED THE "BLONDISH" SOVIET POLICE ADVISOR SEEN BY THE [redacted] (PARAGRAPH 3).

(C) THE SHOOTING REALLY STARTED AT 1258, NOT 1249 (PARAGRAPH 4).

(D) WE ALSO NOTED THAT THE SHOOTING LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY FORTY SECONDS (PARAGRAPH 4).

(E) AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO WERE CLOSER TO ROOM 117 ON THE SECOND FLOOR ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT A SINGLE SHOT PRECEDED THE GENERAL FIRING (PARAGRAPH 4). IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AN AMERICAN OFFICER, AFGHAN POLICE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE ASSAULT INSISTED THAT A SHOT WITHIN THE ROOM INITIATED AN ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS POLICE RESPONSE.

(F) THE AMERICAN STRETCHER CREW WAS POSITIONED UPSTAIRS BEFORE THE SHOOTING STARTED (PARAGRAPH 4).

(G) THE FIRST STRETCHER BEING CARRIED DOWN THE STAIRS (PARAGRAPH 4) WAS THAT OF AMBASSADOR DUBS, WHO WAS ALREADY BELIEVED BY AMERICAN MEDICAL EXPERTS TO BE DEAD. HIS DEATH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OFFICIALLY PRONOUNCED AT THE U.S. DISPENSARY AT 1305).

(H) THE NEXT TWO PERSONS CARRIED DOWN THE STAIRS WERE TERRORISTS WHOSE REMOVAL FROM ROOM 117 HAD BEEN WITNESSED BY AN AMERICAN OFFICER, WHO, ALTHOUGH NOT A MEDICAL EXPERT, BELIEVED ONE TO BE "PROBABLY DEAD" AND THE OTHER TO BE "POSSIBLY DEAD."

(I) U.S. OFFICIALS ALSO SAW THE THIRD TERRORIST REMOVED FROM THE HOTEL ALIVE AND KICKING.

(J) AN EMBASSY OFFICER ROUGHLY ANSWERING THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY [redacted] IN PARAGRAPH 5 WAS AMONG THOSE STRETCHER-BEARERS WHO RUSHED INTO ROOM 117 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOOTING AND HELPED TO CARRY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE AMBULANCE. HE NEVER RETURNED UPSTAIRS; THEREFORE, THIS AMERICAN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE ONE [redacted] SAW COMING DOWN THE STAIRS AFTER HE WAS PERMITTED TO GO UPSTAIRS AFTER HIS BAGS. THE QUOTATION IS MYSTIFYING AND APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO THE DUBS INCIDENT. ALSO, IF [redacted] WERE IN THE DINING ROOM DURING THE INCIDENT, HOW DID THEY KNOW WHICH AFGHAN OFFICIAL WAS IN CHARGE ON THE SECOND FLOOR? (WE THINK IT WAS A YOUNG PLAINSCLOTHES MAN, OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, WEARING A DARK BLUE SUIT AND A LIGHT BLUE SHIRT.) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE "AMERICAN" THAT [redacted] SAW WAS ANOTHER HOTEL GUEST.

(K) AS FOR PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE REFTEL, AMERICAN OFFICERS SEEING WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SAME PERSON REMOVING HIS ARMORED PROTECTION, THOUGHT THAT THE MAN WAS AFGHAN. WE DID NOT WITNESS ANY SOVIETS TAKING PART IN THE ACTUAL ASSAULT INTO ROOM 117. BECAUSE MOST AFGHANS BELONG TO VARIOUS INDO-EUROPEAN ETHNIC GROUPS, SOME ARE SOMETIMES MISTAKEN FOR EUROPEANS.

ARSTUTZ

( ) EASS
( ) PM/A, DIR.
( ) AMB/DCM
( ) ADMIN
( ) AM/CDO
( ) [redacted]
( ) [redacted]
( ) [redacted]
( ) [redacted]
( ) [redacted]
( ) PSI/1
( ) PSI/2
( ) ESO

OFFICE OF SECURITY
FEB 20 1979
COMMAND CENTER

1979 FEB 19 PM 8 22
OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 3.30.81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
Cat B Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S

Reviewed by: FAD
Date: 3 MAR 19 81

CONFIDENTIAL